



For Immediate Release:

March 4, 2014

Statement from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Regarding the Nursing Home Inspections

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has a serious responsibility to protect the health and safety of nursing home residents. This is accomplished through routine nursing home inspections and evaluation of complaints for compliance with state and federal laws and guidelines. Every complaint regarding a nursing home is investigated in a timely manner.

Recent published reports have erroneously indicated a backlog of investigations. Complaints alleging threat of imminent harm to any resident triggers an on-site inspection within 24 hours. If the threat of imminent harm is substantiated, immediate measures are taken to ensure the safety of the residents. Other complaints have investigations initiated within 10 days, almost always including an on-site inspection. Appropriate action will be taken by the County instructing the facility to correct any deficiencies.

The County performs these activities as an agent of the State. Due to inadequate State funding, the level of local inspection personnel is insufficient. This has resulted in the County falling behind in developing the extensive written reports for some completed investigations where one or more violations was identified.

The County is committed to work with the State to secure sufficient resources and streamline current processes to fulfill all State and federal requirements.

The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises nearly 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding \$900 million. To learn more about Public Health and the work we do please visit <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov>, visit our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth>, find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/lapublichealth>, or follow us on Twitter: @LAPublicHealth.

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